

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05

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R 291500Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5066

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SANA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, XA

SUBJECT: TASS REPORT ON GARBA VISIT TO MOSCOW INDICATES SOME
DIFFERENCES WITH SOVIETS

SUMMARY: TASS ARTICLE ON VISIT TO MOSCOW OF NIGERIAN
FON MIN GARBA INDICATES SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION
BETWEEN GARBA AND HIS SOVIET HOSTS ON TWIN FOCUS OF TALKS -
SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY RHODESIA, AND
SITUATION IN HORN. END SUMMARY.

1. ONLY INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY IS
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PROVIDED IN TASS ARTICLE IN NOV 29 PRAVDA WHICH NOTES
THAT FIRST ROUND OF TALKS INCLUDED "EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS"
BETWEEN GARBA AND GROMYKO ON SITUATION IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA AND IN HORN. CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO FOREIGN
MINISTERS TOOK PLACE IN "BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY"
ATMOSPHERE (CODE WORDS "EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" AND
"BUSINESSLIKE" ARE OFTEN USED BY SOVIETS TO DESCRIBE

DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE LESS THAN SMOOTH).

2. IN HIS LUNCHEON REMARKS, AS SUMMARIZED BY TASS,
GROMYKO:

- RECOUNTED HISTORY OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NIGERIAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND EMPHASIZED THAT SOVIET POLICY WAS DIRECTED TOWARD MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING BORDERS;
- MADE PARTICULAR, IF COY, REFERENCE TO INVASION OF TERRITORY OF ONE COUNTRY BY ANOTHER IN HORN OF AFRICA;
- REPEATED STANDARD SOVIET LINE TOWARD RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA SITUATIONS (IMMEDIATE AND "EFFECTIVE"- DEYSTVITEL'NUYU - TRANSFER OF POWER IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA TO LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJORITY OF INDIGENOUS POPULATION);
- IMPLICITLY CHIDED OAU BY CALLING ON IT TO EXPRESS ITSELF MORE DECISIVELY, CLEARLY AND FIRMLY ON FREEDOM FOR INDIGENOUS POPULATION TO TAKE THEIR OWN FATE INTO THEIR HANDS;
- MENTIONED "GREAT POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE" OF US-SOVIET TALKS ON DISARMAMENT, BUT NOTED THAT IT WAS "VERY, VERY FAR" TO A SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM.

3. IN HIS RESPONSE, GARBA:

- FAVORABLY DESCRIBED SOVIET POLICY TOWARD NIGERIA AND TOWARD AFRICA AND SAID THAT NIGERIA STRIVED TO "EXCHANGE OPINIONS" WITH THOSE COUNTRIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH SUPPORT AND DEFEND AFRICAN PEOPLES;

- LINKED SOVIET UNION WITH NIGERIA IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDING TO PEOPLES OF AFRICA "POSSIBILITY" OF DECIDING OWN FATE, AND, IN THAT CONTEXT, SAID NIGERIANS WERE FOR INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA HAVING "STABLE GOVERNMENTS" WHICH WOULD BE "GENUINE EXPRESSIONS OF WILL AND ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR PEOPLES."

4. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING LUNCHEON FROM SOVIET SIDE WERE MINISTER OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY SPECIALIZED EDUCATION YELYUTIN AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE TEREBILOV.

5. COMMENT: NIGERIAN EMBASSY SOURCES ARE TIED UP WITH VISIT, BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE AS SOON AS GARBA HAS GONE. BASED ON TASS LANGUAGE, EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT DIFFERENCES DID EMERGE IN TALKS PARTICULARLY OVER SOVIET AND NIGERIAN ASSESSMENT OF ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND MOVEMENT TOWARD ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE. POSSIBILITY OF NIGERIAN MEDIATION ROLE IN HORN HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION AMONG DIPLOMATS AND WESTERN JOURNALISTS HERE, BUT AT MOMENT, HARD INFORMATION

ON THIS IS NOT AVAILABLE.

TOON

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